

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): TASHIRO	Atty. Dkt.: 11-179
Serial No.: Unknown	Group Art Unit:
Filed: Concurrently herewith	Examiner:
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING JOINT FORCE OF FRICTION-JOINT COMPONENT MOUNTED ON VEHICLE	

Commissioner for Patents
Arlington, VA 22202

Date: September 5, 2003

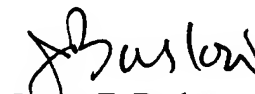
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the reference(s) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 is/are being submitted for consideration by the Examiner without any admission that it/they constitute(s) statutory prior art, or without any admission that it/they contain(s) subject matter that anticipates the invention or renders the invention obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached PTO Form-1449 and to return a copy of same to the undersigned attorney as proof that the listed reference(s) has/have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

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Form PTO-1449 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 1 of <u>1</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. <div style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">11-179</div></td> <td style="width: 50%;">SERIAL NO.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center;">Tsutomu TASHIRO</div></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FILING DATE <div style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">9/5/03</div></td> <td>GROUP</td> </tr> </table>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. <div style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">11-179</div>	SERIAL NO.	APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center;">Tsutomu TASHIRO</div>		FILING DATE <div style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">9/5/03</div>	GROUP
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Dat
		5,325,740	7/5/94	Zhang et al. (corres. to JP 5-209678)		
		6,292,741 <i>(discussed in page 1 of the spec.)</i>	9/18/01	Bitzer et al. (corres. to JP 2000-71819)		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
		5-209678 <i>(discussed in page 3 of the spec.)</i>	8/20/93	Japan			
		2000-71819	3/7/00	Japan			
		2639143	4/25/97	Japan		X	
		2780345	5/15/98	Japan		X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	

EXAMINER:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.